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Home Missionary Exercise...

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETIES

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YOUNG PEOPLE'S DEPARTMENT

Of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America
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Home Missionary Exercise.

Praise.

Leader.—Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee.—Psa. lxvii: 3.

All.—O let the nations be glad and sing for joy: for thou shalt judge the people righteously, and govern the nations upon earth.—Psa. lxvii: 4.

Leader.—Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee.—Psa. lxvii: 5.

Hymn.—(Lyons, 10s, 11s.) - - - No. 169

(The hymns used may be found in the New Laudes Domini).

O, worship the King, all-glorious above,
And gratefully sing His wonderful love;
Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of days,
Pavilioned in splendor, and girded with praise.

O, tell of His might, and sing of His grace,
Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space;
His chariots of wrath the deep thunder-clouds form,
And dark is His path on the wings of the storm.

Thy bountiful care what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light,
It streams from the hills, it descends from the plain,
And sweetly distils in the dew and the rain.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
In Thee do we trust, nor find Thee to fail;
Thy mercies how tender; how firm to the end!
Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer and Friend.

Scripture Reading:

Leader.—Then Jerubbaal, who is Gideon, and all the people that were with him, rose up early, and pitched beside the well of Harod: so that the host of the Midianites were on the north side of them, by the hill of Moreh, in the valley.—Judges vii: 1.

All.—And the Lord said unto Gideon, The people that are with thee are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel vaunt themselves against me, saying, Mine own hand hath saved me.—Judges vii: 2.

Leader.—Now, therefore, go to, proclaim in the ears of the people, saying, Whosoever is fearful and afraid, let him return and depart early from Mount Gilead. And there returned of the people twenty and two thousand; and there remained ten thousand.—Judges vii: 3.

All.—And the Lord said unto Gideon, The people are yet too many; bring them down unto the water, and I will try them for thee there. And it shall be, that of whom I say unto thee, this shall go with thee, the same shall go with thee; and of whomsoever I say unto thee, This shall not go with thee, the same shall not go.—Judges vii: 4.

Leader.—So he brought down the people unto the water: and the Lord said unto Gideon, Every one that lappeth of the water with his tongue, as a dog lappeth, him shalt thou set by himself; likewise every one that boweth down upon his knees to drink.—Judges vii: 5.

All.—And the number of them that lapped, putting their hand to their mouth, were three hundred men; but all the rest of the people bowed down upon their knees to drink water.—Judges vii: 6.

Leader.—And the Lord said unto Gideon, By the three hundred men that lapped will I save you, and deliver the Midianites into thine hand: and let all the other people go every man unto his place.—Judges vii: 7.

All.—And the Midianites and Amalekites and all the children of the east lay along in the valley like grasshoppers for multitude; and their camels were without number, as the sand by the sea-side for multitude.—Judges vii: 12.

Leader.—And Gideon divided the three hundred men into three companies, and he put a trumpet in every man's hand, with empty pitchers, and lamps within the pitchers.—Judges vii: 16.

All.—And he said unto them, Look on me, and do likewise: and, behold, when I come to the outside of the camp, it shall be that, as I do, so shall ye do.—Judges vii: 17.

Leader.—When I blow with a trumpet, I and all that are with me, then blow ye the trumpets also on every side of all the camp, and say, The sword of the Lord, and of Gideon.—Judges vii: 18.

All.—So Gideon, and the three hundred men that were with him, came unto the outside of the camp in the beginning of the middle watch; and they had but newly set the watch: and they blew the trumpets, and brake the pitchers that were in their hands. Judges vii: 19.

Leader.—And the three companies blew the trumpets, and brake the pitchers, and held the lamps in their left hands, and the trumpets in their right hands to blow withal: and they cried, The sword of the Lord, and of Gideon. Judges vii: 20.

All.—And they stood every man in his place round about the camp: and all the host ran, and cried, and fled.—Judges vii: 21.

Hymn.—(Leighton, S. M.) - - - No. 763

Arise, ye saints, arise!
The Lord our Leader is;
The foe before His banner flies,
And victory is His.

We follow Thee, our Guide,
Our Saviour, and our King!
We follow Thee, through grace supplied
From heaven's eternal spring.

Till, of the prize possessed,
We hear of war no more;
And ever with our Leader rest,
On yonder peaceful shore.

Responsive Reading:

Leader.—What promise had the Lord given to Gideon?

All.—And the Lord said unto him, Surely I will be with thee, and thou shalt smite the Midianites as one man.—Judges vi: 16.

Leader.—Why then was the army of Gideon so reduced in size?

All.—Lest Israel vaunt themselves against me, saying, Mine own hand hath saved me.—Judges vii: 2.

Leader.—That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.—1 Cor. i: 31.

Men.—Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of Hosts.—Zech. iv: 6.

Women.—That the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.—2 Cor. iv: 7.

Leader.—Gideon went forth to battle, even though the force against him seemed overwhelming. What were the secrets of his success?

Women.—His faith in the promises of God.

Men.—His perfect obedience.

All.—He was clothed by the Spirit of the Lord.

Leader.—We must also remember that the army of Gideon was composed of men of like character with the leader—men who recognized and assumed the personal duty and the personal responsibility.

All.—And they stood every man in his place round about the camp.—Judges vii: 21.

Hymn.—(7s, 6s.) - - - - - No. 965

Lord of the living harvest,
That whitens o'er the plain,
Where angels soon shall gather
Their sheaves of golden grain,

Accept these hands to labor,
These hearts to trust and love,
And deign with them to hasten
Thy kingdom from above.

As laborers in Thy vineyard
Send us out, Christ, to be
Content to bear the burden
Of weary days for Thee.

We ask no other wages,
When thou shalt call us home,
But to have shared the travail
Which makes Thy kingdom come

Perils of Our Land.

Leader.—What are some of the perils that threaten our land?

1st Voice.—IMMIGRATION. Not the coming to our shores from foreign lands of men of high worth, who aid us in Christian civilization, but of those who contribute in such large measure to the illiterate and criminal population—these and kindred classes—menace our national welfare. Nearly one-half the population of the United States is of foreign birth or parentage.

2nd Voice.—ROMANISM. The followers of the Church of Rome swear true obedience to the Pope, and therefore cannot, *as our law requires*, become American citizens by "renouncing forever all allegiance to any foreign prince, potentate, state or sovereignty." Romanism is opposed to our public school system, and approves the Union of Church and State.

3rd Voice.—MORMONISM. The Mormons teach a perverted Scripture, that faith in the person of Joseph Smith, as well as in Jesus Christ, is essential to salvation. The head of the Mormon Church claims the right to control the people in everything, from the smallest details of personal interest to matters of universal import.

4th Voice.—THE LIQUOR TRAFFIC. Aside from its immense contribution to the mental, moral and physical suffering of the people of all classes, its money power, used freely to influence legislation and control votes is enormous. The annual liquor bill of the nation is now estimated at more than one thousand million dollars.

5th Voice.—CITIES. Each of the dangers referred to, excepting Mormonism, is enhanced and centred in the great cities. The foreign element in our fifty principal cities constitutes about

three-fourths of the population. Because they are so largely foreign, Romanism finds in them its chief strength. These cities furnish one evangelical church to every three thousand souls, and one saloon to every one hundred and seventy. (Taking the City of New York as an average.) The average seating capacity of the churches will accommodate five hundred each, leaving five-sixths of the population unprovided for; while the entire population could be accommodated in the saloons.

Hymn.—(C. M.) - - - - - No. 705

The Saviour bids thee watch and pray
Through life's momentous hour;
And grants the Spirit's quickening ray
To those who seek His power.

The Saviour bids thee watch and pray,
Maintain a warrior's strife;
O, Christian! hear His voice to-day:
Obedience is thy life.

The Saviour bids thee watch and pray,
Oh, hearken to His voice,
And follow where he leads the way,
To heaven's eternal joys!

The Work of Our Church.

Leader.—Can these dangers be averted?

All.—Yes, by the Gospel alone.

Leader.—What share has the Presbyterian Church in the work of giving the Gospel to the needy in our own land?

Men.—Through its Board of Home Missions it is organizing and supporting churches among Americans and the people of the exceptional populations, including representatives of thirty foreign nations. To do this work 1450 missionaries are employed.

Leader.—How are these missionaries supported?

All.—By money received from churches, Sabbath schools, Christian Endeavor societies, Junior Christian Endeavor societies and from individuals.

Leader.—Does the work of the Board of Home Missions measure our Church's effort to carry the Gospel to those in the desolate portions of the United States?

Women.—No. In 1879, by action of the General Assembly, the Woman's Executive Committee (now known as the Woman's Board of Home Missions) was made the agency for carrying on another branch of work, which was most urgently called for by the missionaries on the field.

Leader.—What is this work?

All.—The support of mission schools among the Alaskans, Indians, Mexicans, Mormons and mountaineers of the South. The necessary funds are secured through women's societies, Sabbath schools, Christian Endeavor societies, Junior Christian Endeavor societies, mission bands and through individuals.

Leader.—How many schools are supported by the Woman's Board, and how many missionary teachers are employed?

All.—There are over one hundred schools, with about three hundred teachers.

Leader.—What has been the result of this school work?

All.—The confidence of the people everywhere has been won, and many appeals for more schools and enlarged work are frequently made. Sixty-nine churches on the various portions of the field stand the direct outgrowth of this school work.

Leader.—Which branch of Home Mission work do Christian Endeavor societies support?

All.—Christian Endeavor societies contribute to the support of both branches of Home Mission work.

(See Treasury Diagram on last page.)

Field Echoes.

Leader.—What word comes from the missionaries and teachers on the field regarding their work?

(Readings from Leaflet by different members).

Responsive Reading.

Leader.—To whom is the work of winning our land to Christ committed?

All.—To the Christians of the land—*not one is exempt.*

Leader.—Have we Scripture proof that all are called to the work?

All.—Many passages in God's Word clearly teach us our personal responsibility, one of the strongest of which is found in Rev. xxii: 17. The Spirit and the bride say, Come. And *let him that heareth say, Come.*

Leader.—Are all of God's children obeying this command?

All.—No. It is estimated that only six out of every hundred professed Christians are vitally interested in missions.

Hymn.—(L. M.) - - - - - - No. 955.

Go, labor on; spend and be spent,
Thy joy to do the Father's will;
It is the way the Master went;
Should not the servant tread it still?

Go, labor on; enough, while here,
If He shall praise thee, if He deign
Thy willing heart to mark and cheer:
No toil for Him shall be in vain.

Toil on, and in thy toil rejoice;
For toil comes rest, for exile home;
Soon shalt thou hear the Bridegroom's voice,
The midnight peal: "Behold, I come:"

Reading. "Pitchers versus Lamps."

(Published by the Woman's Board of Home Missions.)

Our Share.

Leader.—We have considered the needs of our country. Assuming the personal duty and the personal responsibility laid upon us as God's children, how shall we aid in supplying these needs?

1st Voice.—By helping to sustain the work already in hand, to organize more churches, to establish more schools, and to place in charge men and women consecrated to the Lord and His cause.

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.—Rom. 12: 1.

2d Voice.—By giving more time to prayer for God's blessings upon the work and workers. One missionary writes: "*Pray for us. Forget us never. Make us realize that we have friends who sympathize with us.*" Another, "*I feel I shall succeed or fail, according as the prayers of God's children are given or withheld.*"

3d Voice.—By making offerings of money for the work's support. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.—Mal. iii : 10.

All.—Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the Gospel should live of the Gospel.—1 Cor. ix : 14.

Hymn.—(S. M.) - - - - - No. 969

We give Thee but Thine own,
What'er the gift may be:
All that we have is Thine alone,
A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

May we Thy bounties thus
As stewards true receive,
And gladly as thou blessest us,
To Thee our first-fruits give.

The captive to release,
To God the lost to bring,
To teach the way of life and peace—
It is a Christ-like thing.

And we believe Thy word,
Though dim our faith may be;
Whate'er for Thine we do, O Lord,
We do it unto Thee.

Offering.

Prayer for God's blessing upon the gifts.

An Everlasting Kingdom.

Leader.—How long is God's kingdom to last which we have learned we are to help build?

All.—His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.—Dan. vii: 14.

Leader.—And He shall reign over the House of Jacob forever; and of His kingdom there shall be no end.—Luke i: 33.

Leader and All.—Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the Heaven and in the earth is Thine; Thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and Thou art exalted as head above all.—1 Chron. xxix: 11.

Hymn.—8s, 7s, D. - - - - No. 1122

Goodly were thy tents, O Israel,
Spread along the river's side,
Bright thy stars which rose prophetic,
Herald of dominion wide;
Fairer are the homes of freemen,
Scattered o'er our broad domain;
Brighter is our rising day-star,
Ushering in a purer reign.

Welcome to the glorious freedom,
Which our fathers hither brought;
Welcome to the priceless treasure,
Which with constant faith they sought,—
See, from every nation gathering,
Swarming myriads throng our coasts,
Hear, with steady steps advancing,
Ceaseless tread of countless hosts.

God of nations! our Preserver,
Hear our prayers, our counsels bless;
Lift o'er all Thy radiant banner,
On these souls Thy love impress;
From Thy throne of boundless blessing,
O'er our land Thy Spirit pour;
In the grandeur of Thine empire,
Reign supreme from shore to shore.

Benediction.

· TREASURY DIAGRAM ·

Board of Home Missions

SUPPORTS

MISSIONARIES } Among Americans and the people of the
EVANGELISTS } exceptional population, including representatives of thirty foreign nations within the borders of the United States.

BY CONTRIBUTIONS

From Churches, Sabbath-schools, Christian Endeavorers, Junior Christian Endeavorers, and Individuals.

Woman's Board of Home Missions

SUPPORTS

MISSIONARY } Among Alaskans,
TEACHERS } Mexicans, Mormons, Indians, Mountaineers.

BY CONTRIBUTIONS

From Women's Societies, Sabbath schools, Christian Endeavorers, Junior Christian Endeavorers, Bands and Individuals.

It is advised that all moneys contributed by the C. E. and Junior Societies be forwarded by the local treasurers to the Presbyterial Treasurer of the Woman's Board of Home Missions, and that she send money as designated, that intended for the Board of Home Missions, to Mr. Harvey C. Olin, Treasurer, and that intended for the Woman's Board of Home Missions, to Miss S. F. Lincoln, Treasurer, since this will decrease expense and labor at headquarters.

Feby. 8, 1898. — 25M. — $12.74 — White, Corbin & Co.

Woman's Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church,
No. 156 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

Self-Denial.

"Neither will I offer unto the Lord my God of that which doth cost me nothing."

—2 Sam. 24: 24.

Jany 24, 1898. — 10 M. — 10.12 DeLaMare.

You are cordially invited to attend a _____ Missionary _____ Meeting, to be held on _____ the _____ at _____ o'clock, in _____ Church. The presence of every woman connected with the church and congregation is desired, and you are requested to extend this invitation to your friends.